President’s Letter

I like the seasons because I appreciate the changes much more than if the weather were perfect all the time. But sometimes, the changes don’t come fast enough. I’m tired of winter and looking forward to spring.

We had the 2nd Annual Meeting in February. At this year’s Annual Meeting, we elected a new board of directors. This is the first time in several years that we have had a full board. Thank you to everyone who volunteered! You may recall that we held a 2nd meeting to get the number of responses needed to conduct business. One of the key items on this year’s agenda was a vote for collection of a special assessment for neighborhood wide mosquito abatement spraying. Although it was not passed, we continue to encourage everyone to bring items you think will make a difference in our neighborhood to the board.

Looking forward, as spring arrives, we will be taking care of the landscaping around the monuments. Look for information in the board meeting minutes or on the website. If you happen to see people out working, feel free to stop by. We have taken on these activities to save the homeowners association ~$600 over paying a landscaping service to do the work.

As the original post street markers need to be replaced, the township is replacing them with standard posts and green street signs. We will be exploring other styles of signs in order to continue to make our neighborhood unique.

The block party is scheduled for June 26. Look for information as we get closer to the date. This is a great chance to visit with your neighbors in a very casual setting.

The board is here to represent you. Let us know how we can help you. We will meet periodically through the year. The date of the next meeting is usually listed in the most recent set of minutes and is always posted on the website. The meetings are open to all members of the homeowners’ association. Feel free to join us.

Therese G
President-SRHA

Annual Meeting Re-Do Results

Because we failed to obtain a quorum through attendance and proxy votes at the January Annual Meeting, it was re-scheduled for February 20th.

In February, the quorum requirement was met, the Mosquito Abatement proposal was not passed and the SRHA board member nominees were elected. Following the Annual Meeting, a board meeting was held and the officers were elected.

Your SRHA Board is comprised of the following residents:

Therese G—President
Herb L—VP
Joe O—Treasurer

Irene Cygan—Secretary
Karen Malcolm—Asst. Secretary and Asst. Treasurer
Bill H
Steve K
Jill P
Mike R

Thank you for volunteering for the open Board positions.

Dates of Interest:

- April 5-8 Mosquito Abatement Treatment
- May 14 15 16 and May 21 22 23 Steeple Run Neighborhood Garage Sale
- May 22 Septic Pump-Outs
- June 29 vs. Heidelberg Allotment Firefighting
- Mary 29—Possible Additional Septic Pump-Outs
- June 20 Last Day to Burn Yards Fall Weed Burn
- June 1 New Fiscal Year Starts
- June 5 & 11 Volunteer Monogrant Clean-Up
- June 12 RSVP Dance for Block Party
- June 26 5-9 Block Party
- June 30 SRHA Due Out
- July 7 7-10 PM SRHA Board Meeting

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The third fiscal quarter concluded on February 28 with a positive cash flow for the year to date. Overall costs remain within budgeted projections and we anticipate that there will be no major expenses until the annual meeting in February. We incurred a legal expense in December associated with a lien that had been filed to recover dues and related expenses on a property in the plan.

**SRHA Annual Dues Assessment Due by June 30, 2010**

Given the current economic climate, this is an early notice of the upcoming Annual Dues. Notices of Annual Dues for the fiscal year that runs from June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011 will be mailed in May. The annual dues assessment for the new fiscal year will remain at $85 as it has been since June 2007. Dues should be paid no later than June 30, 2010. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in making timely payment of the 2010-11 dues. This avoids additional expenses to collect, including possible fines.

If you do not receive your postcard notice by June 1, please contact Joe O.

Payment may be hand-delivered to Joe or mailed to:

SRHA
PO Box 1350
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-1350
Neighborhood Spotlight: Ryan P

400,000 spectators and the WGN television audience watched Ryan P and The Crystal Lake Strikers as they marched in Chicago’s 76th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade on a very chilly and wet day in their bowling shirts. The Strikers were also in the parade the previous year.

The 23-man drumline includes members as young as 16, the Mayor, a City Council member, and a high school band director, and all are passionate about playing music.

The CL Strikers is a non-profit organization that supports a college scholarship for CL D-155 students.

Neighborhood Spotlight: Connor F

In December, the NW Herald ran this picture of Connor F (#81) on a punt return, taken during the last 3 minutes of The Chicagoland Youth Football League Pac-10 Championship game held at Lake Zurich High School. Connor (#81) is a member of the Prairie Wolves Jr. Wolves Middleweight team that defeated the Wilmot Bulldogs 8-0. After a scoreless 3+ quarters, #32 wove through the Bulldogs defense to score a touchdown on a punt return, with Connor (#81) and two other teammates flanking their punt returner.

Obituary: Wanda Hay

One-time Steeple Run resident Wanda Hay passed away November 12, 2009 at the age of 83. She died at home after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

It was her wish to have a memorial service to celebrate her life; it was held in Cincinnati. Wanda is interred in Ohio. In lieu of flowers, she requested that you take your family or friends out to dinner and spend time with the ones you love. Family reunions always brought Wanda great joy.

Our deepest sympathy for their loss goes out to Tom and Denise, Carl and Mike.
STEEPLE RUN NEWS

Neighborhood Block Party: Saturday June 26th

Please mark your calendars for our neighborhood Block Party! The band has been booked for June 26th; there is no rain date.

The Block Party will be held in the Belson Lane cu-de-sac and the Ibbotson’s are graciously providing electricity for the band and the Graff’s are providing lavatory access.

Please keep the schedule but cut out the RSVP portion on the next page, download it from the website or use the form from the emailed newsletter and return by June 12th.

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to volunteer your help, please contact Karen M, Kathy W, or Linda L.

Spring Cleaning—Outside and Inside

Winter is mostly over and spring means spring cleaning for many homeowners. With the snow cover receding, the debris that has blown into our yards has been exposed. Please take a few minutes to clear the litter and broken glass from the road, right-of-way and from under your bushes. And take care when putting your trash out on the gusty days that will invariably arrive this Spring.

Spring also is an ideal time for clearing out the clutter in our rooms, closets and garages. A neighborhood Garage Sale is being planned for Thursday-Saturday May 14, 15 & 16 and May 21, 22 & 23. Please contact Karen M if you are interested in participating.

She is also accepting donations of garage sale signs as ours had disappeared from their corners last year. If you have them stored in your garage, please contact Karen.

Directory Updates

Please add an additional email address for: mike.reitcheck@freescale.com

Please add a new neighbor to your Directory. David Bryant has purchased the home at 6217 Smith Rd.

Please delete David Nattrass’ email

Reminder: Please refrain from using the Steeple Run emailing distribution list for any purpose other than Steeple Run business.

Spring Pruning and Brush Disposal Alternatives

Spring flowering shrubs such as forsythia, lilac, dogwood and serviceberry, should be pruned right after they bloom so that they will flower again next spring.

To maintain the health and size of a shrub, dead branches, crossed branches that rub each other, thick old woody stems and vertical suckers or waterspouts should be removed.

In addition to burning (see page 6 for the Burning rules), branches less than 10” in diameter, brush and twigs can be dropped off at the Algonquin Township facility on the last Saturday of the month through October from 8-12. The township also offers curbside pickup; the guidelines are at their website:

http://www.algtwsp.com/eforms.html

Leaves, grass clippings and rubbish will not be accepted for drop-off or pick-up.

Our garbage haulers are required to provide landscaping and yard waste removal if you chose to enroll for this service. Contact your provider for more specific information and costs.
PLEASE JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

DATE: Saturday, June 26
TIME: 5:00-10:00 p.m.
RAIN DATE: To be determined
PLACE: Belson Lane cul-de-sac

- Food & Drink
- Live Band
- Fire Truck Demo for the Children
- Games

Featuring: “Back Cat Bone” band, with our very own Jimmy Pinkl

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND CHAIRS

SRHA President Theresa Graff and her husband Tim have graciously volunteered the use of their bathroom for the Block Party.

RSVP to Karen Malcolm by June 12th in order to secure the band. Just complete the attached form and drop it off in the white mailbox next to front door at 3700 Church Hill Lane. Additional volunteers—Linda LeBlanc and Kathy Wendt

***The Steeple Run Homeowners’ Association does not sponsor this event***

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
3:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
7:00-9:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m.
Set-up
Kick off Parade @ Belson Lane Cul-De-Sac
Kids/Bikes/Dogs
Feel free to decorate (No motorized scooters/bikes)
Eat
Games
S'mores & Marshmallow roast (Bring your own)

Block Party RSVP
Name/s: ______________________________

Cost per person: $5.00 per person x # _______ people = $ _______
(Please check one)
____ I/We will bring my own to grill or not eat
____! Add $3.00 per person for Hamburger/Hot Dogs/Buns

# people ______ x $3.00 = $ ______
Total Cost = $ ______
(Optional) donation = $ ______
Total Amount Enclosed = $ ______

**********BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND CHAIRS**********
I will bring/donate the following items to the party:
Wood for firepits
Charcoal / Fluid (Circle One Or Both)
Side Salad
Dessert
Chips

I am interested in loaning or helping out at the Block Party:
Set-up
Clean-up
Use of our bathroom
Band—tent/plugs/platform/lights/electrical (please circle)

PLEASE BE THERE WITH ITEMS & TO SET-UP TWO HOURS BEFORE BLOCK PARTY

PLEASE PLACE YOUR LAST NAME ON ALL YOUR BELONGINGS
VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MONUMENT SPRUCE UP JUNE 5

We’re looking for a few good men and women! Volunteers are needed for our annual spring clean-up of the 4 monument planting areas.

The party is planned for the morning of Saturday June 5. Last year our volunteer crew saved the SRHA $600 by performing the work ourselves—that’s $600 that did not come out of our dues!

The hours are very flexible so you can fit an hour or two into your schedule. No experience necessary. Please join your neighbors during on that morning for fun and fellowship while you work together weeding, trimming and mulching.

Please consider joining the landscaping lads and gardening goddesses on the morning of June 5th.
In order to better serve and protect the south-eastern part of McHenry County, the McHenry Co. Sheriff’s Department, together with Algonquin Township, has developed a cost effective County Sheriff’s Substation with the hopes other communities will do the same.

On December 15th the new McHenry County Sheriff’s Substation was officially opened with a Blue Ribbon Cutting ceremony. The event was officiated by McHenry County Sheriff Keith Nygren and Bob Miller, Algonquin Township Hwy. Supervisor, with opening speeches.

In attendance were other county and local officials. Mike Tyron, Illinois State District Representative and McHenry County States Attorney, Lou Bianchi, were on hand to witness the opening as well.

The facility was built in unused space located on the Highway 14 Algonquin Township property. The location has a phone outside the building for citizens to contact the dispatcher in an emergency. The substation includes a waiting area, interview room, Breathalyzer and evidence storage. In addition, there is a secure lockup room for detention until a county vehicle arrives for transportation to the County Jail in Woodstock.

Finally, there is a meeting room available for community purposes, i.e., neighborhood watch, police internship, and various presentations/programs. After the ceremony, free gun locks were made available to citizens in attendance.

If there is enough demand, Sheriff Nygren said he could staff the facility. As a convenience for the public, residents won’t have to travel to Woodstock to speak with an officer. The sheriff also said that the substation would allow deputies to spend more time in our area because they wouldn’t have to leave to drive suspects to Woodstock.

Architectural Control Notice

In our Covenants, Article Six (Architectural Control) 6.02 requires that any increase in the square footage of a structure requires notice be given to all homeowners. The Nath family has sought, and received, preliminary approval to add to their home, using the space above the garage.
The McHenry County Board is regulating open burning to protect the public health, safety and welfare. An ordinance was passed and became effective April 1, 2008. It defines what, when and under what conditions landscape waste can be burned. Even more restrictive rules apply to residents of Crystal Lake and other municipalities.

The complete McHenry County Open Burning of Landscape Waste Ordinance is available for reference, printing or download at the Steeple Run website.

Open burning is limited to the burning of:

- landscape waste (grass, shrubbery cuttings, leaves, flowers and weeds) and
- brush (tree trunks, branches and twigs).

Never permitted is the burning of:

- Garbage (animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food),
- manure (solid and liquid wastes from livestock or poultry) and
- litter (any discarded substance such as garbage, trash, refuse, debris, plastic or paper containers, packaging, furniture, oil, dead animals, construction materials, toxic materials, etc.)

PROHIBITIONS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, LIMITATIONS

Burning of brush and landscape waste is permitted:
- Only on weekends
- Between dawn and dusk
- During April, May, October and November
- When the wind is not in excess of 10 mph
- Supervised by a person at least 18 years old until extinguished
- A garden hose or water source must be available at the burning site
- At least 100 feet from a habitable structure and 50’ from non-habitable structures
- Limited to dry landscape waste and brush
- Limited to the property on which the waste was generated
- Not on easements or roads or create a visibility hazard on roads

ENFORCEMENT

This ordinance will be primarily enforced by the McHenry County Department of Health, along with local law enforcement agencies and fire departments, with fines varying from $100 to $1,000.

EXCEPTIONS

There are exemptions for prairie restoration, outdoor cooking, external fireplaces, self-contained outdoor wood-burning devices and recreational fires (less than 3’ by 3’ by 3’ in size). These fires are not subject to the distance from structures restrictions, dates and times, and wind speed restrictions of the ordinance. It is also not necessary to have a garden hose standing by.

Ceremonial bonfires (greater than 3’ by 3’ by 3’) have the same exemptions IF

1. Notice has been given to the fire protection district
2. A permit has been obtained from the McHenry County Dept. of Health

ALTERNATIVES

The McHenry County Solid Waste Manager has been assigned the responsibility to find economical alternatives to open burning. Waste haulers offer landscape waste collection services. Algonquin township has a drop-off site and limited pick-up service for brush; see page 4 for more information.
Arrow Septic is freezing their prices at 2009 levels and offering a discounted rate of $175 per household tank up to 1500 gallons (if a total of 1-6 homes enroll). If the total of enrolled households is 7 + the pricing will drop to $165 each. No other coupons or discounts will be valid with this Steeple Run offer. In addition to the discounted price, a digging charge of $20 per 15 minutes of dig time labor will be added per household if the access lid to each tank isn’t easily accessible and exposed for the driver.

DO NOT OPEN the lid and leave it open as this causes a safety concern.

Arrow Septic will include a complimentary 5 point inspection with every pump-out:

- Check the structural condition of the tank
- Check the flow from the house to the tank. (Provided resident is available to flush a toilet from inside the home.) Also if we have access to the inlet or outlet pipes, we will run a video scope through to inspect the condition of the pipe(s) at no charge.
- Check the condition of the outlet baffle.
- Check the septic field.
- Check the level at which the tank is running.

If a homeowner in the subdivision is new to Arrow Septic, they are encouraged to visit www.arrowseptic.com to see a complete listing of services offered.

Payment is due at time of service. They accept checks, all major credit cards, and cash. If a homeowner is not going to be home on the day of the appointment, please call their office at 815-459-5558 X221 or X222 to arrange payment by credit card or to disclose where they would be able to leave a check for the driver to collect. Drivers will start around 8:00 a.m. and which homes they start with are at the technician’s discretion; specific times for each residence will not be given.

Saturday May 22, 2010 has been reserved for Steeple Run subdivision. (If we end up with a very large sign up, we can also reserve Sat. May 29 as well.) Please sign up with Maria at 815-459-5558 or csr_maria@arrowseptic.com. Be sure to mention that you live in Steeple Run.

Another pump-out date is being planned for autumn.

Paradise Auto (at Sands and NW Hwy) is offering membership in their Car Care Club. A one year $79.95 membership provides coupons for:

- 4 free oil changes (up to 5 quarts of oil, a new oil filter and lube)
- A pair of wiper blades
- Tire rotation and under carriage inspection
- Plus savings coupons on many other repairs, routine maintenance and services.
If your bicycle has been hanging on a hook in your garage for a few years and you are looking for a little low-impact exercise in the fresh air and sunshine, why not dust it off, inflate the tires, oil the chain and check out the bike trails located just a few miles from Steeple Run.

Many of the bike paths are rails-to-trails conversions. As the name implies, these trails have been built on abandoned railroad lines. The trails are paved with asphalt or packed, crushed limestone, which makes for a smooth riding surface. And, of equal or greater benefit, they are flat. So, wipe out the image of gasping for air as you make a Lance Armstrong sprint up a long steep Alpine grade. It’s just a smooth steady ride through the trees, prairies and towns of McHenry County.

The Rails-to-Trails Conservatory maintains a list of bike trails located in the U.S. http://www.railstotrails.org/aboutUs/index.html The website offers a map that shows the location of the trail, travel directions and general information on trail access and parking. Below are a few trails located just a short hop from Steeple Run.

Although the trails are many miles long, you don’t have to ride the entire length. For example, on the Fox River Trail the ride from Algonquin to Dundee is 5 miles. Take a break at the Dairy Queen (oops, there go the 50 calories per mile that you just burned) and then ride back to Algonquin. Or hop on the trail in Dundee and ride to the riverboat casino in Elgin (about 5 miles), take a break, and head back to Dundee where you can stop for lunch at Benedicts, which is located right on the bike path.

You can equip your bike with a little trip computer that tracks your speed, distance and time. Some even come with a heart rate monitor and GPS, if you are in to that. You might also want to purchase a bike carrier to make transport to and from the trail a little easier. Add a bike helmet, if you wish, some comfortable clothes and you’re ready to ride.

Fox River Trail (32 mi. from Algonquin to Aurora) http://www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6015748
Prairie Trail (28 mi. from Algonquin to the WI border) (The section through Veterans Woods is very hilly) This trail passes under NW Highway and Main Street in a tunnel. http://www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6015774
Des Plaines River Trail (33 mi. Lake-Cook Road to Wadsworth); well-maintained crushed limestone http://www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6032692
Robert McGlorey Bike Path (aka North Shore Bike Path); (26.5 mi. from Highland Park to Kenosha, WI) http://www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6015779
Chicago Lakefront Bike Path (18.5 mil. along Chicago lakefront) http://www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6015752
Oak Leaf Trail (96 mi. of trails through Milwaukee) http://www.traillink.com/ViewTrail.aspx?AcctID=6017372
Algonquin Township Recycling Center Opens 3/27

The Algonquin Township Highway Department has opened its recycling center for the 2010 season, starting Saturday March 27, 8 a.m. to noon. It will be open the last Saturday of each month, closing for the winter on October 30th.

Although the state funding for paint recycling was cut, our township has set aside $40,000 to continue this program to prevent pollution of our water table. Algonquin is the only township in McHenry County to currently offer paint recycling.

Residents are limited to 10 gallon containers and 2 five-gallon buckets per vehicle per month. Non-residents can drop off paint at $5 per container. Usable paint is blended together and reused. Unusable paint is taken away and burned as fuel in the cement-making process.

Thinners, stains and paint removers cannot be recycled here.

Paint recycling is limited to the posted hours but the recycling bins for clothing, shoes, glass, paper, etc. are available at all hours.

Islamic Center Moving to Crystal Lake Avenue Site, maybe

The CL Zoning Board of Appeals voted 5-2 to recommend granting The Islamic Center of McHenry County a conditional use permit for a 5-acre property currently for sale on East Crystal Lake Ave. The existing home and barn are on the second lot east of the newly widened Pingree/Terra Cotta intersection on the north side of Crystal Lake Ave. The McHenry County Board will act on the request next.

This tax-exempt group has been renting meeting space from the CL Park District and would now like to have their own place to worship, rather than meeting in the Rotary Bldg. in Veterans’ Acres Park. Their new community center would host religious services and outreach to promote interfaith dialogue.

The first McHenry County Zoning Board of Appeals meeting needed to be continued on March 23.

Once approved, we may notice more traffic turning onto and off of CL Ave. in a location we’re not accustomed to seeing turning cars. The building will be busiest for Friday prayers and Sunday religious and community outreach.

Be alert for this change in traffic pattern as there are no dedicated turn lanes onto this property.

Broken Mailboxes, Missing Packages

Reports have been received from a resident that packages that had been delivered were taken from next to their door in December. If anyone has experienced similar thefts, please contact the Board so that we know if others have had similar problems.

If your mailbox has been broken or vandalized this winter, please notify the Board so we can evaluate the extent of the problem.
Our Algonquin Township Road Commissioner, Bob Miller, and his foreman, Derek Lee, attended our April board meeting to discuss the process for obtaining and installing more distinctive street signs for Steeple Run.

Bob explained why we currently have a variety of signs. The old brown posts, which were designed to discourage theft by souvenir seekers are being replaced by high intensity prismatic signs on telspar posts. The township is at the start of a 5 year plan, switching all of the signs to a uniform design and placement as mandated by federal law. By 2013, all regulatory signs need to be replaced. The street name signs will be completely replaced by a 2015 deadline. The new signs will be on 9’ posts, be uniform across the country, and be more visible at night. The street name signs must be white with either blue, green or black backgrounds.

The SRHA board is beginning to investigate the possibility of having distinctive signs and posts. Potential designs and costs are not yet known.

Bob also answered our questions concerning other road district issues. In brief:

- The street cleaner is currently cleaning the roads with curbs within the township and will be cleaning our roads in the next few weeks.
- Township crews will be examining the edges of our roads and repair the crumbling areas; it is not necessary to report the areas needing their attention. However, potholes should be called in and they will fill them.
- They tried unsuccessfully to correct the solid white line demarcating the right turn lane at the Sands Road entrance and will have a white turn arrow painted in the lane.